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18 OCT 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Presidential Intelligence  
Priorities Group, 17 October 1977

1. Mr. Bowie chaired the meeting, which was attended by Mr. Saunders, State; Mr. Bader, OSD; Lt. Gen. Smith, JCS; Mr. Long, Treasury; Mr. Hoskinson, NSC; and Dr. Stevens, CIA.
2. The Group was agreed that List A should provide the framework for the questions that would make up List B, thus making it possible to move from one list to the other without confusion.
3. The PRC(I) members, when they are presented with List B, should be asked to check whether a specific question is of low, medium, or high interest, or of no concern to their particular areas of interest. There should be no limit on the number of questions submitted, but an effort should be made to keep the list as short as possible. The questions will concern only items of national interest, not of narrow departmental interest. Questions as a rule, moreover, will deal only with substance, not with such areas of activity as counterintelligence.
4. The procedure for changing the lists will be for the PRC(I) to address the lists periodically and change them as it deems appropriate.

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Once the PRC(I) has done its work with the lists, it will remain for Intelligence to decide which questions need to be addressed in finished intelligence products, which require the development of new analytical capabilities through basic research, and which require collection efforts.

5. There followed a discussion about the sorts of requirements the PRC(I) would have to address in order to make sensible decisions on resource issues, such as the proper mix of imaging satellites. The Group recognized that it was probably dealing with only one facet of the work the PRC(I) will undertake. It was further recognized that lists A and B will be probably only one of several sorts of requirements and priorities that different sorts of producers, processors, and collectors will require--e.g., the DCID 1/2 attachment.

6. Finally, the Group ordered the formation of a working group to compile a List B, drawing on the contributions of the various participants. Using List A as an outline, the working group will:

a. when it encounters more than one version of a question, select the best formulation.

b. when it encounters overlapping questions, combine and consolidate them.

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c. compile a list of question to be dropped.

The working group was asked to complete its work as expeditiously as possible under the chairmanship of the undersigned.

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